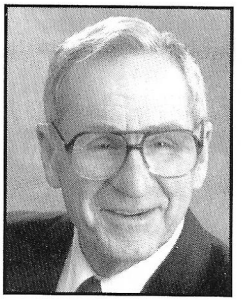
Roger Cason earns MMR 307

Roger L. Cason lives in Wilmington, Dela., and retired from DuPont in 1992 after a 38-year career as a mechanical engineer and financial manager. After many years as an inactive railfan and potential model railroader, Roger finally "picked up the tools and went to work" on model railroading when retirement was on the horizon. He was quickly blessed by becoming a member of a round-robin operating group. The group has several hundred years of modeling experience, and everyone was more than willing to share and teach.

Roger's first construction effort was the usual 4'x8', flat, HO layout. From the beginning, it was intended as a training project. This first effort was followed very shortly by his current layout – a 13'x21' pike occupying the former basement recreation room. Roger is particularly indebted to Art Treisback, a member of his round robin group, for his contribution to the planning. Art volunteered to search through innumerable issues of Model Railroader seeking just the right concept. The result is a layout that is actually two small layouts connected together. The mainline is a large folded loop that runs through a hidden staging area, permitting continuous operation when desired. There is also an extensive point-to-point branch line serving three industrial areas. Operation on this layout was the focus of the article on pages 33-37 of the November 2001 issue of The *NMRA Bulletin.* The layout is set in Appalachia, a part of the country where Roger lived for eight years. The numerous tank cars and tank car loading spots make his chemical industry background very obvious to most observers (living in Wilmington you can get away with this!).

Roger feels that "giving back" should be an important part of any avocational interest, and of membership in a nonprofit organization such as NMRA. He is currently an MER Director, has written a series of articles for the MER newsletter, and has served on numerous committees. He has also served as an apprentice judge, and recommends this as an excellent way to improve one's modeling skills. Outside of model railroading, he is active in Wilmington Power Squadron (a boating organization), serves as Treasurer of the Delaware Chamber Music Festival, and is a volunteer consultant to nonprofit organizations through the Executive Service Corps of the Delaware Valley. He is also a skilled grandfather to his five grandchildren.



Roger has earned Achievement Certificates for Scenery, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chief Dispatcher, Author, Car Builder (his most difficult), and Volunteer. He is particularly indebted to Dave Messer (Philadelphia Division AP Coordinator) and Ray Bilodeau (MER General Contest Chairman) for their encouragement as he worked on the foregoing certificates.